

Dear Sir/Madams

I STRONGLY oppose HB 6825 (An Act Making Deficiency Appropriations and Addressing the Deficit for the Current Fiscal Year Ending June 30 ,2015. This bill take \$15 million from the Community Investment Act (CIA) . In section 5 of this bill, the Governor proposes to divert \$15.2 million in the CIA funds to address the budget deficit for the current fiscal budget. This raid is in addition to the complete sweep of funds proposed for the FY 16 and 17 biennial budget - providing a series of devastating blows to this account.

The CIA was established as a **DEDICATED REVENUE SOURCE OUTSIDE OF THE BUDGET** to provide consistent funding for reinvestment into our communities for open space, farmland/dairy support, historic properties, and affordable housing programs. The CIA is critical to land conservation. It is the ONLY CONSISTENT source of funding for the Open Space Land Acquisition Grant Program.

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